

Façade Grant Program

City of Sumter

Effective 7/04

Eligibility Requirements

The Façade grant program is available to business and/or building owners that are located in the designated Façade Grant area of the City of Sumter. Those areas include the following boundaries of the Central Business District:

Main Street from Bartlette to Canal

In addition the portions of the following streets from Harvin to Sumter Street:

Canal Street, Law Range, Liberty, Dugan, and Caldwell

Façade grant renovation can be used on an exterior portion of the building that is visible to the public. This can include the front, back and sides of the building. **Façade grant money may not be used for interior renovations or roof repair.**

Application Deadlines

All applications for the 2005 grants must be submitted to the Downtown Development Manager no later than March 11, 2005. ***Late applications will not be accepted.***

Application Requirements

The grant application must include a recent price quote for the proposed project from either an architect or a licensed contractor. This quote shall be utilized only for the purpose of determining the amount of grant needed for the project and any costs incurred in obtaining the quote shall be the responsibility of the applicant, not the City of Sumter. If the grant is awarded, three bids will need to be obtained and the project shall be awarded to the lowest bid. The Downtown Development Manager will assist the applicant in obtaining bids.

Guidelines

Grant applications shall be reviewed by a Review Committee comprised of the Downtown Development Manager, The City of Sumter Special Projects Director, The Chairman of the Downtown Sumter Board of Directors, the Director of Community Development, the Chairman of the Economic Restructuring Committee and two members from the Design Committee. This seven member committee shall review all applications and use a scoring system to determine the grant recipients.

Additional points shall be awarded to an application if the applicant proposes to pay a larger percentage of the project cost than what is specified as the “minimum match”.

Additional points shall also be awarded if the applicant is requesting funds for only materials and intends to personally fund all labor related costs of the project.

All grants for the calendar year shall be awarded no later than April 4, 2005. All work must be completed by December 31, 2005 or the Grants Committee reserves the right to revoke the grant.

All Downtown projects that involve exterior changes to a building must be approved by the Historic Design Review Board. In the event that a grant is awarded and the project does not meet the design standards, the Grants Committee reserves the right to revoke the grant.

In the event that a proposed project is not selected for funding, the applicant may re-submit the project the following year for reconsideration.

Level I grants (up to \$2500.00) normally require a minimum match of 35%. If financial hardship can be proven, the match can be reduced or eliminated. If the applicant is applying to have the match reduced or waived, business and personal financial statements for the past two years must be included with the application. This information will be reviewed only by the Downtown Development Manager and shall not be revealed to the Grants Committee or other parties.

Payment of grant funds shall be disbursed directly to the contractor, not to the applicant. Disbursement schedules will be determined based on the scope of the work.

Any improvements completed under the Façade Grant program shall become permanent fixtures of the building. They may not be removed by the business owner or the building owner in the event of the closing or sale of the business or the sale of the building without the express written consent of the City of Sumter. This provision shall not apply if a future change is made to the building for the purpose of further renovation that will enhance the redevelopment of the downtown area.

CITY OF SUMTER FAÇADE GRANT APPLICATION

Applicant_____

Street Address_____

Mailing Address (if different)_____

Contact Person_____ Title_____

Daytime Phone_____ Fax_____ Email_____

Applicant is: ☐ Building & Business Owner ☐ Business Owner ☐ Building Owner

If applicant is not the building owner, please provide the following:

Building Owner Name_____

Mailing Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Important: If applicant is not the building owner, please include a letter from the building owner providing endorsement and permission for the proposed façade renovations.

Has the applicant received applied for façade grant money in the past? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, was any money awarded? ☐ YES ☐ NO

How long has the current business been at this location?_____

How long has the present building owner owned the property?_____

Is the second floor of the building currently occupied? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Has any improvement costing more than \$2500.00 been made to the building in the past 3 years?
☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, please give a brief description and approximate cost:

Brief Description	Amount Spent

Description of Proposed Façade Work: (if additional space is needed, please attach as an additional page)

Estimated Total Cost of Project: \$_____

(Please include quote from contractor or architect)

Portion of project that applicant proposes to pay \$_____

Must be at least the minimum match as specified in the program

Extra scoring points shall be awarded if applicant pays 100% of the labor portion of the proposed project. Do you propose paying all labor costs? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Estimated date that project will begin if grant is awarded _____

Estimated completion date for project _____

If the application is for a Level I Grant (\$2500 or less), is applicant requesting that any or all of the required matching funds by applicant be waived? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, please include with this document 2 years business and personal financial statements that will substantiate financial hardship.

Certification

I certify to the City of Sumter and The Grants Committee that ALL of the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that the funding source of the Façade Grant program is HUD Federal Funding and I understand that I must comply with all the regulations of HUD and The City of Sumter.

Applicant's Signature

Date

CITY OF SUMTER FACADE GRANT PROGRAM

Façade Grants are available in amounts from \$500.00 to \$10,000.00.

The required participation by the applicant varies based on the amount of the grant request.

The percentage indicated below is the minimum required contribution. You can increase your chances of being awarded a grant by proposing to provide a level of funding match above the minimum required.

<u>Type of Grant</u>	<u>Maximum Grant</u>	<u>Minimum Match</u> <u>Required By Applicant</u>
Level I	\$500 - \$2500	35%**
Level II	\$2501 - \$5000	30%
Level III	\$5001 - \$10,000	25%

Restrictions:

1. Work must begin within 90 days from the awarding of the grant and must be completed by December 31, 2005.
2. **On Level I façade grants, if financial hardship can be documented, the required match by the applicant may be waived or reduced by the Façade Grant Review Board.